

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-20 is now in this application, and is presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Request for Three Month Extension of Time

Applicant hereby requests that the period for responding to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2007, set to expire on May 12, 2007, be extended by THREE (3) months, so as to expire on August 12, 2007. Applicant is a large entity.

Payment is being provided with the filing of this Amendment.

Please charge any additional fees for this extension of time to Deposit Account No. 07-1524.

Change of Status

It is also hereby requested that the status in the above application be changed from small entity to large entity status.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

By this amendment, applicants have amended claims 3 and 11 to more clearly define their invention in compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Specifically, claim 3 has been amended to change the phrase "wherein the introduced functional molecule..." to "wherein the functional molecule ...".

Claim 11 has been amended to amend the last phrase "the aforementioned step of producing a functional PNA oligomer from a PNA oligomer" to "a step of producing a functional molecule to be introduced."

It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are no longer indefinite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention.

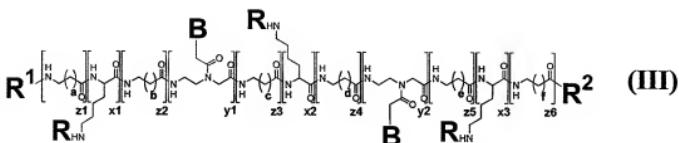
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

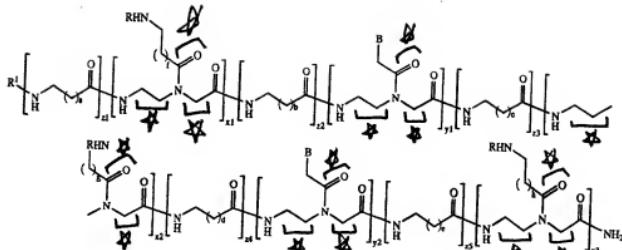
Double Patenting

Claims 12-20 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-26 of U.S. Patent No. 6,809,190.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiners' comments with respect to the nonstatutory double patenting rejection of claims 12-20 over claims 16-26 of U.S. Patent 6,809,190. Applicants have carefully reviewed the claims of the cited patent and respectfully submit that a nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is not appropriate in the present case.

Formula (II) in claim 16 of the cited patent differs in many respects from the compounds of claims 12-20 of the present invention. For ease of comparison, applicants have reproduced below formula (III) of applicants' claim 12 and formula (II) of claim 16 of the reference patent, 6,809,190.





(II)

A comparison of the two formulas clearly shows that there are numerous non-obvious differences in the structure of the compounds. Applicants have superimposed on formula (II) of the patent numerous points in chemical structure and bonding wherein the compounds of applicants' invention differ from that of the patent, each of which is marked with a hand-written star.

For example, the pendent groups terminating with RHN of the patent contain a carbonyl group whereas the RHN containing groups of applicants' claimed invention do not contain such groups. Moreover, the RHN groups of the patent are attached to the polymer chain through a nitrogen atom whereas in the present application the group is attached to a carbon atom.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 12-20 on the ground of nonstatutory

obviousness-type double patenting over claims 16-26 of U.S. Patent 6,809,190 is not proper.

Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

For each of the forgoing reasons, applicants submit that the claims 12-20 are in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-10.

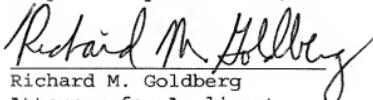
If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 07-1524.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1524.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-20 are allowable, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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